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You can submit news items of your group activities, upcoming events, stories (and even reminiscences!), photographs, notices and comments to the *RCU e-News* by email to

enews@rcu.lk

Main Activities



2010 - A yearlong celebration of Royal College, Colombo

The 175th anniversary of Royal College, Colombo is a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the achievements and standing of the island's leading house of learning.

From humble beginnings under the *Hill Street Academy* banner in 1835, the institution evolved into the oldest public school in the country via the *Colombo Academy* and the latter *Colombo Academy* and *Queens College*.

From its present site in Thurstan road, this national treasure has served the nation with a sense of untiring dedication, having produced some of the nation's finest intellectuals, athletes and political leaders.

It is in this vein that the Royal College Union has set out an extensive and comprehensive plan of action in order to mark the quartoseptcentennial of this noble institution.



175th Anniversary Celebration of Royal College (Year 2010) Event Calendar

Event	Date of Event
1. Religious Ceremony to commence the celebrations	<u>Buddhist</u> - All Night Pirith – 9 February 2010 Dawal Dana – 10 February 2010 <u>Hindu</u> - Religious Ceremonies at Bambalapitiya Kovil and School – 10 February 2010 <u>Muslim</u> - Religious ceremonies at Dawatagaha Mosque and School – 11 February 2010 <u>Christian</u> - Holy Mass at school - 11 February 2010
2. Special assembly of the Royalists with the Head of the state as the Chief Guest	16 February 2010 (Subject to confirmation)
3. Releasing of a Stamp and a first day cover to commemorate 175 years of Royal College	16 February 2010 (to coincide with H E Presidents visit to School)
4. Royal Banquet - Formal dinner of the Old Boys Community	6 March 2010
5. Royal Thomian – Three day encounter	11, 12 & 13 March 2010
6. Royal Thomian – One day encounter	20 March 2010
7. Royal Thomian – Inaugural T20 encounter	27 March 2010
8. Members Night	2 nd week June 2010
9. Royal Parade and Launching of Raffle Ticket	3 July 2010
10. Inter-School Invitational Relay Carnival	August 2010
11. Shakespeare Drama Production	July/August 2010
12. Publication of the School History (175 years)	2 nd week September 2010
13. Bradby Shield	To be determined (likely in July)
14. Royalists on Stage (Musical Show) and Raffle Draw	1 st week December 2010
15. Other Events (Dates yet to be decided)	
1. IT Exhibition	
2. Singhalese Drama	
3. Restoration of School Building	
4. Restoration of Archives building	
5. Paper Supplement	
6. Football Carnival	
7. Tennis Tournament	
8. National Aquatic Meet	



Choices, Options, Opportunities

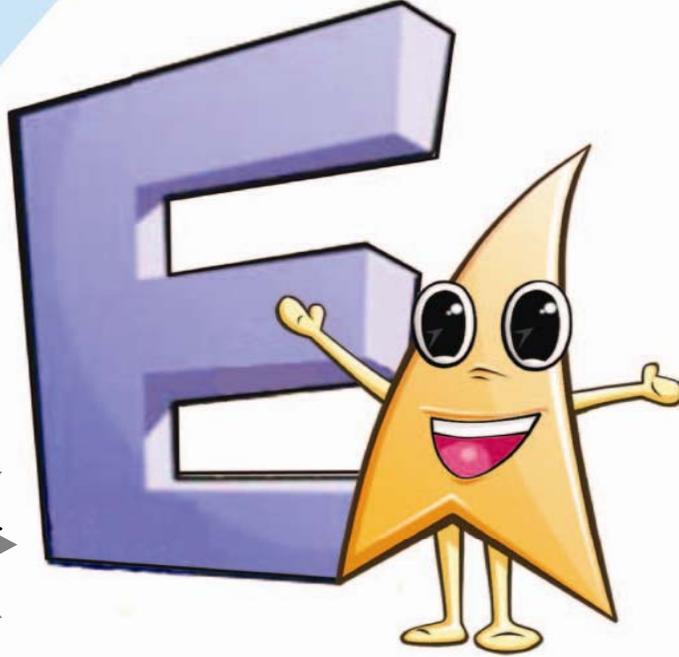
EDEX

National Higher Education and Careers Expo

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தேசிய உயர்கல்வி மற்றும் தொழில்வாய்ப்பு கண்காட்சி

15, 16, 17 January
Colombo
BMICH
Sri Lanka

19,20 January
Kandy
City Centre
Sri Lanka



ENTRANCE
FREE

Empowering Sri Lankan Youth to be Globally Competitive

www.edex.lk



Organised by
The Royal College Union



EDEX 2010: Bringing the world of Education and Careers to the doorstep of Sri Lankan youth

Largest Education and Careers fair in the country aims to make Sri Lankan Youth to be Globally Competitive



Figure 1 : Members of the Head table at the EDEX 2010 Press Conference

EDEX 2010, the National Higher Education and Careers Expo, the largest exhibition of its kind in Sri Lanka, will be held for the seventh consecutive year from 15th to 17th January 2010 at the BMICH, Colombo and 19th and 20th January 2010 at the Kandy City Centre.

This mega event organised by Royal College Union is expected to draw over 100,000 visitors from all over the Island. The event actively supports its long term vision of “Empowering Sri Lankan Youth to be Globally Competitive”. The exhibition will comprise over 300 stalls representing over 23 countries providing youth choices, options and opportunities in education and training, to arm them with the right knowledge, qualifications and skills necessary to excel in their chosen careers.

“For the last seven years, our vision has been to empower local youth by exposing them to world class education and training options which will lead to gainful employment,” EDEX 2010 Chairman, Kamal Abeysinghe explained.

To be held at the turn of a new decade and the dawn of a new era in a unified Sri Lanka, EDEX 2010 will be the one-stop platform for students, school leavers, undergraduates and parents

alike to seek guidance from representatives of local and foreign universities and educational institutions in higher education, vocational training and skills development.

He added that education and skills development are the ideal solutions to eradicate the issue of poverty in the country as it would lead to more opportunities being generated across the Island. “We are empowering students and youth across Sri Lanka to choose the right education and vocational training which suits them best and helps to guarantee their employability. Through generating jobs we can also ensure equitable social development of the country with similar opportunities in all parts of society.”

Over 250 foreign universities represented directly or through their agents from countries such as United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore, Russia, Japan, Bangladesh, India, China, Nepal, Switzerland, Cyprus, France, New Zealand, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Ireland, Spain, Canada, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Maldives will provide information on the courses available, requirements for scholarships awarded by them, as well as ‘On site’ spot admissions and advice and guidance on student visas and other relevant information. Several scholarships and special offers await the discerning visitors at the Expo.

The Careers Services unit of EDEX will have a special counter to provide career guidance to visitors who seek advice on the choices, options, and opportunities in the ever evolving sphere of careers. Free consultations with learned professionals with years of experience in various fields will be available for visitors to talk to and expand their knowledge and gather insights on specific professions, latest trends in employment and the evolving employment opportunities of the corporate world. Another add-on this year will be seminars on “latest trends in careers” conducted out by experienced career guidance experts.

EDEX has also gone one step further with the launch of their revamped website www.edex.lk which provides access to the three most significant facilities offered - the Expo itself, Careers and Think Green through three dedicated web portals. The site will be maintained 24x7 to provide a convenient and up to date one-stop online resource to access these services by the most discerning young minds anywhere, even outside Sri Lanka.

Of these three portals, the Careers Portal is unique in that it offers both job seekers and providers of career related services to share information with each other over the same web platform. The advantage for seekers of education, training or job opportunities is that they can search for those opportunities that best suit their individual needs by uploading their CVs. They can also browse career guidance resources which can provide guidance on job specific skills to improve their employability as well as help to better manage their careers from an early stage. This career profiling service is online and provided free of charge. The advantage for course providers is that they can reach a large youthful population looking for opportunities to further

their careers by publishing details of courses offered. The advantage for employers is that they can reduce the cost of recruiting suitable staff thanks to the filtering process which identifies candidates that best match the criteria for a specific vacancy.

Following up on the successful 'Green Zone' initiated by EDEX in 2009, students with a 'Green' conscious mindset will be provided with a dynamic environment to help decide the course of their future and to promote the sustainable living concept at the EDEX 2010 - 'Green Zone'. This year, the EDEX Green Zone will bring together exhibitors, individuals and corporate entities keen to display, exhibit and showcase their green initiatives, products, services, technological innovations, education, skills development and employment opportunities with the objective of educating, activating and engaging Sri Lankan youth on sustainable living.

In line with the Government's priority to focus on education to take the nation forward, EDEX 2010 is formally endorsed by the Presidential Secretariat, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour Relations and Manpower and Ministry of Vocational and Technical Training. EDEX is also supported by the Strategic Partnership of The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, ICTA, AMCHAM and European Chamber of Commerce.

Platinum sponsors for the event are Singer Sri Lanka PLC and ESOFIT, Gold Sponsors are Mobitel (Private) Limited, American National College and NDB Bank PLC (Official Bankers) and the Silver Sponsor is The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. As event partners, UPS is the Official Courier and Business Today is the Official Business Magazine.

For more details contact Ranjith 0115 521 497 at the EDEX Secretariat at RCU, Rajakeeya Mawatha Colombo 07 or visit www.edex.lk or email info@edex.lk or fax 0112 683 100.



RCU honours the World's Most Innovative School's Principal



After arriving from Salvador, Brazil, where Royal was adjudicated the World's Most Innovative school, the Principal of Royal College Mr. Upali Gunasekera was gifted a token of appreciation from the Royal College Union for bringing this great honour to the school. The memento was handed over by RCU Secretary Mr. Rizan Nazeer at the RCU's last council meeting.

A congratulatory message was also sent to the Principal by distinguished old boy Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the His Excellency the President. In the message Mr. Weerathunga said "The enthusiasm with which I received the news that Royal College was honoured by Microsoft Corporation for being one among only 30 schools in the world "for best innovative practises", was not just as a former royalist myself, but also as Sri Lankan, taking immense pride in the achievement of our children. I Sincerely Hope that you will build on the recognition you have received, not only to sustain your achievement but also to raise the bar of performance".

The RCU had also invited another distinguished old boy in Vice Admiral Tissara Samarasinghe, Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy, to speak a few words on this achievement. He appreciated the effort that had gone in to this as unprecedented. He stated that over the years Royal College has progressed toward this with correct values, correct infrastructure, correct environment and conducive facilities. He also said that we must, at this hour of glory, be mindful of the contribution made by many personalities in achieving this, if you try to list them out is numerous. It was a team effort.

Speaking at the occasion, the Principal thanked the present and past council members for the significant contribution they have made so far towards making Royal Best in the world. Further he said that College would not be able to achieve this Historic success without the support of Old Boys. Further he explained about the Competitiveness of the Competition which was organised by Microsoft Cooperation, USA. There had been over 10,000 schools from all over the world taking part in this competition and in the second round Microsoft Sri Lanka short listed five schools from Sri Lanka and Royal was among those five.



ROYAL RUGBY FIESTA 2009

Group of 2002 emerge victorious once again



The annual intergroup Touch Rugby tournament organized by the Royal College group of 91 was held at the CR & FC grounds on 21st November 2009. It was really encouraging to see lot of teams braving the heavy down pour in the morning to come and participate.

The kids had a marvelous time with lot of activities to engage themselves including the bouncer, The Magician and face painting, while the old & the not so old had

to concentrate on the oval ball in the middle of the ground.

It was a very well organized reunion for the past rugby players of Royal College to relive the memories when they rule the rugby fields. The crowd was entertained to a good display of rugby even from the very seniors who showed in no uncertain terms that they still have the power & the speed some times to out run a youngster old enough to be their sons. The organizers have taken great trouble to make this event a memorable one with a nice firework display to in between games. From semi final stage onwards the games were played under floodlight.

This year's tournament took a new look as a Challenge trophy was introduce to honor our 1st coach, the legendary Mr. Sumanthiran Navaratnam, known by everyone as Summa 'sir'.

Summa was present till the end and gave away the trophy to the winners of the under 30 age group.

Group of 2002, captained by Chameera Bandara won the "Summa Navaratnam challenge trophy" after beating a combined side of 2007/8 groups in the finals by 3 tries to nothing. The Group of 2002 continues to dominate the under-30 age group category, with this win being their 5th consecutive one and making the tally of 6 wins in 8 tournaments.



The 30-40 age group matches was played for TNT /Aitken Spence Cargo trophy. TNT was the main sponsor of the tournament for the 2nd consecutive year.

Group of 91 captained by Naufer Raheem (former Sri Lanka, CR&FC and Police Scrum half) emerged joint champions with a combined side of 1994/5 captained by the Center turned Prop forward Shasika Cooray (a former Sri Lankan player and CH & FC captain). The result was 1 try each at full time and no scoring done at extra time.

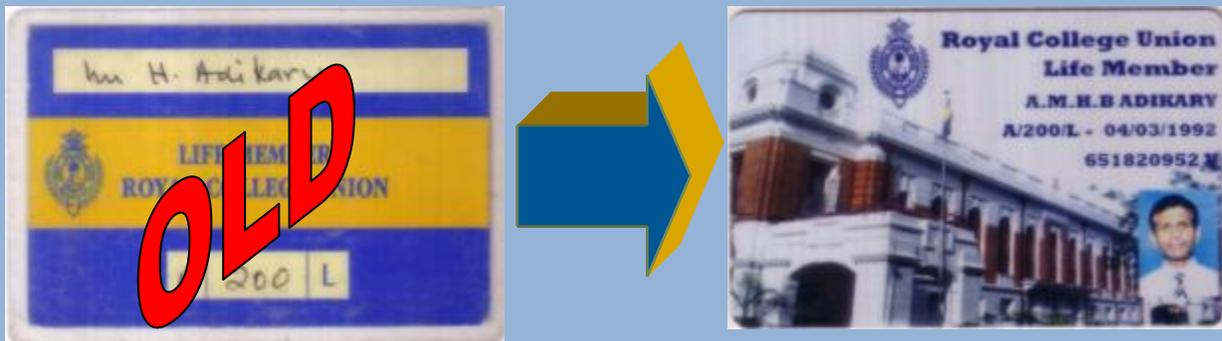
Group of 86 captained by Manjula Pieris beat a combined side of 78/79/80 to become champs in the over 40 age group.



Victorious Group of 2002 after receiving the Championship.



CHANGE YOUR RCU MEMBERSHIP CARD NOW



Are you aware that the RCU has been in the process of replacing your old laminated membership card with a more detailed plastic card?

We have been issuing the new card for the last four years. Already 2,000 plus cards have been replaced, however over 7,500 cards are yet to be replaced.

To coincide with Royal College 175th anniversary we have fast tracked the replacement. The cost of the replacement is Rs 500. You can pay the amount along with a photograph (digital JPEG) and obtain the new card within 4 weeks. **The card will be delivered to your home and you need not visit the RCU to collect it.**

We can also arrange the same facility at your AGM or any other get together. Please pass this message to your fellow old Royalists.

Please take this opportunity and help us to complete the task.

For further details you may contact Harshana on 0777 -707970 or by emailing Harshana@hoodvian.com

Membership Development and Services Committee



College Sports and Other Activities

Cricket: Maneesha gets a hat-trick

The 1st XI cricket encounter between Royal and St. Anthony's Katugastota ended in a draw at Reid Avenue. Royal taking first lease of the wicket made 294 for 4 declared (Ramith Rambukkwella 68) In reply SACK could only made 206 .The pick of the Royal bowlers was left arm spinner Maneesha Thanthirigoda who took 06 wickets for 69 runs.

In their second innings Royal went on for quick runs and declared at 114 for 09, setting a victory target of 206 for SACK. St Anthony's were cruising along fine when Thanthirigoda dashed all their hopes capturing 04 wickets in 04 successive deliveries (This could well be a national Schools record ,we await confirmation). With Thanthirigoda running through the front order, SACK were forced to settle down for a draw .The final score read SACK 129 for 06 (Maneesha Thanthirigoda 06 for 55)



Cricket: South African Bokkies get a Right Royal Bashing

The Touring Under 19 Cricket team from South Africa "Bokkies" met Royal College Under 19 in a 50 over Cricket Encounter at Royal College Grounds and were shown the metal of Royal Cricketers.

Batting first Royal compiled 278 for 8 with Chalaka Bogoda leading the attack with 114 n.o. However it was all over for the South Africans in just 13 overs, when Royal established their supremacy by capturing all wickets for just 52 runs.



Rugby: Carlton Sevens – Royal Emerge Runner Up

Carlton Sevens, an international Rugby tournament organized by the Sports wing of the "Tharunyayata Hetak Foundation", concluded last month at the Sugathadasa International Stadium.

The Royal College Rugby 7's team participated in the schools section of the tournament and emerged runners-up losing 17 -14 to St. Peters in the Finals.



Are you **planning** on an
Event that needs to **Reach**
out to **Royalists?**

Royal College Union has the facility to send Short Message Text (SMS) to its membership, any Royal College Old Boys Group / Committee at a very reasonable rate of Rs. 3/- per message per member.

To find out more details of this special offer, contact Mr. Rizan Nazeer, Secretary RCU on 0712 737717 / 077 788 1628

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